

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MPOL, PINT, CA, US

SUBJECT: CANADIAN DEFENSE MINISTER SAYS CANADA WILL NOT OPPOSE
TRIDENT BASE CONSTRUCTION

1. PRESS REPORTS STATE CANADIAN DEFENSE MINISTER JAMES RICHARDSON SAID FEBRUARY 28 AT VANCOUVER NEWS CONFERENCE CANADA WILL NOT PROTEST CONSTRUCTION OF TRIDENT NUCLEAR SUBMARINE BASE AT BANGOR, WASHINGTON, 100 MILES SOUTH OF VANCOUVER. RICHARDSON QUOTE AS SAYING "I BELIEVE A STRONG TRIDENT CAPABILITY IS A DETERRENT TO WAR. THEREFORE THE BUILDING OF THE BASE, WHEREVER IT IS BUILT, HELPS DETER WAR."
2. TRIDENT SUBMARINE ALLEGEDLY WILL PROVIDE FIRST STRIKE NUCLEAR CAPABILITY. RICHARDSON ALSO QUOTED AS SUPPORTING NUCLEAR FIRST STRIKES UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES. HE SAID "I THINK THE ASSUMPTION IS AT THE TIME A CONVENTIONAL WAR IS TAKING PLACE, AND A DEFEAT IS TAKING PLACE AND THE COUNTRY IS NOT WILLING TO ACCEPT DEFEAT".
3. TRIDENT BASE HAS BEEN SUBJECT IN RECENT MONTHS OF NUMEROUS DEMONSTRATIONS IN VANCOUVER AREA BY BRITISH COLUMBIA ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS. ALTHOUGH REPORTS INDICATED PREVIOUS PROVINCIAL NDP GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED OPPOSITION TO BASE NO STATEMENT YET MADE ON SUBJECT BY PRESENT SOCIAL

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CREDIT GOVERNMENT.

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Message Attributes

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